

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/807,886

Examiner

Dirk Wright

Applicant(s)

BUCKNOR ET AL.

Art Unit

3681

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☐ This communication is responsive to ____.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-16.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: ____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date ____.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date ____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date 03242004
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date ____.
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other ____.

Claims Allowed

Claims 1-16 are allowed. The claims are allowed because the prior art does not anticipate nor render obvious the claimed combination of: A multi-speed transmission comprising: an input shaft; an output shaft; a planetary gear arrangement having first, second and third planetary gear sets, each planetary gear set having first, second and third members; said input shaft being continuously interconnected with a member of said planetary gear sets, and said output shaft being continuously interconnected with another member of said planetary gear sets; an interconnecting member continuously interconnecting said first member of said first planetary gear set with said first member of said second planetary gear set, and said first member of said third planetary gear set; and seven torque-transmitting mechanisms for selectively interconnecting said members of said planetary gear sets with a stationary member or with other members of said planetary gear sets, said seven torque-transmitting mechanisms being engaged in combinations of three to establish at least eight forward speed ratios and at least one reverse speed ratio between said input shaft and said output shaft.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

No particular single feature of the claim renders the claim as a whole patentable. Only the claim taken as a whole combination is deemed new and unobvious.

Prior Art Discussed

The examiner has considered the references cited by applicant in his Information Disclosure Statement filed concurrently with the application. None of the references show all of the features of the claimed combination.

The references cited by the examiner are deemed pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Usoro '145 shows an eight speed planetary transmission in Figure 7 with an interconnecting member 70 that connects an element of each planetary gear set together, but only shows six torque transmitting elements. Bucknor '358 shows an eight speed planetary transmission in Figure 3 with an interconnecting member 70 that connects an element of each planetary gear set together, but only shows six torque transmitting elements. Usoro '789 shows in Figure 10 an eight speed transmission with an interconnecting element 70 that connects an element of each planetary gear set together, but only shows six torque transmitting elements. Usoro '787 shows an eight speed transmission with an interconnecting member 70 that connects an element of each gear set together, but the seven torque transmitting elements are engaged in groups of two instead of the required three, therefore this published application does not claim conflicting subject matter.

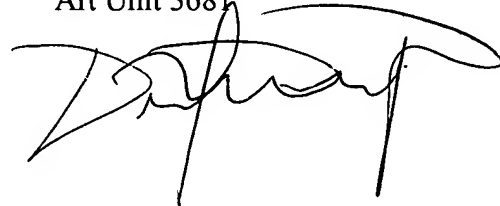
Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Dirk Wright whose telephone number is 571-272-7098. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday, 8AM-4:30PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Charles Marmor can be reached on 571-272-7095. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Dirk Wright
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3681

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Dirk Wright', with a large, stylized flourish extending from the end of the signature.

DW
Friday, September 02, 2005